

REMARKS

Reconsideration of the present application is respectfully requested. Claims 11, 42, 49 and 58 have been amended. No claims have been canceled or added in this response. No new matter has been added.

Claim Rejections §103

Independent claims 11, 27, 39, 42, 49 and 58 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) based on Geiger et al. (U.S. Patent no. 6,463,534) in view of Newton (U.S. Pub. No. 2003/0035547). Applicant respectfully traverses the rejections.

Claim 11 recites:

11. A method comprising:
 - obtaining a first domain name provided by a client;
 - retrieving a second domain name from a digital certificate;
 - comparing the first domain name and the second domain name; and
 - accessing a data structure to determine whether the first domain name is mapped to the second domain name if the first domain name and the second domain name do not match.**(Emphasis added).

The Examiner acknowledged that Geiger does not teach or suggest accessing a data structure if the first domain name and the second domain name do not match, but alleged that Newton's paragraphs 113-114 and 127-128 teach or suggest the limitation. Applicant has analyzed the cited paragraphs, but finds no discussion, or even a hint, regarding accessing a data structure to determine whether the first domain name is mapped to the second domain name, as now recited in claim 11. Specifically, Newton's paragraphs 113 and 114 disclose determining whether the domain name in the server's certificate match the domain name of the server itself, and refusing to authenticate the server or establish a connection if the domain names don't match. Newton's paragraphs 127-128 concern the concepts of "certificate", "digital signature",

“public key”, etc. Paragraphs 127-128 contain no discussion regarding accessing a data structure to determine whether the first domain name is mapped to the second domain name, such as recited in claim 11.

Thus, at least for the foregoing reasons, Newton does not teach the limitation of accessing a data structure to determine whether the first domain name is mapped to the second domain name. Neither does Geiger disclose or suggest this limitation. Therefore, Geiger and Newton, individually or in combination, do not teach or suggest all limitations of claim 11. Therefore, claim 11 and all claims which depend on it are patentable over Geiger and Newton.

The other independent claims contain essentially similar limitation as discussed for claim 11 above. For similar reasons, therefore, all of the other independent claims and the claims which depend on them are also patentable over Geiger and Newton.

Dependent Claims

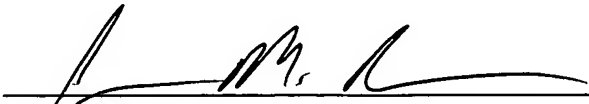
In view of the above remarks, a specific discussion of the dependent claims is considered to be unnecessary. Therefore, Applicants’ silence regarding any dependent claim is not to be interpreted as agreement with, or acquiescence to, the rejection of such claim or as waiving any argument regarding that claim.

For the foregoing reasons, the present application is believed to be in condition for allowance, and such action is earnestly requested.

If any additional fee is required, please charge Deposit Account No. 02-2666.

Respectfully submitted,
BLAKELY, SOKOLOFF, TAYLOR & ZAFMAN LLP

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Jordan M. Becker
Reg. No. 39,602

Customer No. 26529
12400 Wilshire Boulevard
Seventh Floor
Los Angeles, CA 90025-1030
(408) 720-8300